

MACAULAY'S THIRD CHAPTER

139

became the political bible of the following century/¹ The Two Treatises of Government Locke published In August 1689 were written, as Locke himself declares In the Preface, 'to establish the throne of our great restorer, our present King William', and 'to justify to the world the people of England'. He undertook in them the task Milton had undertaken forty years earlier in his Tenure of Kings and Magistrates, and his Defensio pro Populo Anglicano, and achieved his purpose with more success than Milton did. Locke's other writings exerted so great an Influence on the development of English Ideas on religion, politics,, and philosophy that no history of the nation should have omitted them. To analyse at length the drivellings of Dodwell and the charges of the pamphleteers against Sherlock Is an Inadequate compensation for so serious an omission.

Macaulay's treatment of Dryden, and of the literature of William's reign in general, is open to similar objections.

He mentions Dry den often but makes no attempt to bring out the significance of his writings in the development of English life. The period which follows the Revolution of 1688 has a character of its own. In foreign relations it is marked by the triumph of a national over a dynastic policy, In domestic affairs by the triumph of self-

government.

The nation through Its representatives takes the management of its affairs Into Its own hands. The fashion Is to regard the Revolution too much as If It were the triumph of aristocracy. Contemporaries saw more truly which way things were going. At the beginning of William's reign Tories like Evelyn complained that there was a republican spirit abroad ; at the end the Whig Burnet lamented that we 'were become already more than half a common-

¹ Leslie Stephen, History of English Thought (1876), ii. 135.